



# StateNotes

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## Provision for Early Entry to Kindergarten

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Alabama	"An underage child who transfers from the public school kindergarten in another state may be admitted to local public kindergarten on the prior approval of the local board of education on a space available basis." (Ala. Code § 16-28-4)
Alaska	"A child under school age may be admitted to the school in the district of which the child is a resident if immediately before the child became a resident of the district, the child was legally enrolled in the public schools of another district or state...A child under school age may be admitted to the public school in the school district of which the child is a resident at the discretion of the governing body of the school district if the child meets minimum standards prescribed by the board evidencing that the child has the mental, physical, and emotional capacity to perform satisfactorily for the educational program being offered. A district's educational program must prescribe that under school-age students advance through the curriculum or grade level by the following school year." (Alaska Stat. § 14.03.080)
Arizona	If, in consultation with the parent/guardian, the child, the teacher and the school principal, it is determined to be in the best interest of the child, a child may be admitted to kindergarten early. Such child must reach the required age of 5 by January 1 of the current school year. (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-821)
Arkansas	"Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least 60 days, who will become 5 years old during the year in which he is enrolled in kindergarten and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance, may be enrolled in a kindergarten program in a public school in this state." (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-207)
California	The school district may admit, on a case-by-case basis, a kindergarten child who will turn 5 at any time during the school year providing a) the parent or guardian gives permission, b) the district determines early admittance is in the best interest of the child and c) the parent or guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of early admittance. (Cal. Educ. Code § 48000)
Colorado	A child who will be age 4 by October 1 of the current school year and is identified as a "highly advanced gifted child" may enter kindergarten at age 4. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-20-104.5)

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Connecticut	"[Local] boards of education may, by vote at a meeting duly called, admit to any school children under 5 years of age." (Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-15c)
Delaware	<p>"Local school authorities may grant exceptions [to the entrance age] for entry into school if they determine that such exception is in the best interest of the child." (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)</p> <p>Parents may request a no cost evaluation of a "potentially gifted child to determine if the child possesses "outstanding mental and cognitive abilities and to determine if the child can demonstrate the social, emotional, and physical maturity, normally expected for successful participation in kindergarten." (Del. ADC 14 § 940-1)</p> <p>If the child scores 1.5 standard deviations above the mean score for the assessment instrument used and the child is judged to be mature enough to successfully participate in kindergarten, the child must be admitted to kindergarten in accordance with the "free and appropriate education" requirements of the special education code. (Del. Code Ann. tit.14 § 3101)</p>
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	A child who was a legal resident "of one or more other states for a period of two years immediately prior to moving" to Georgia, and was legally enrolled in kindergarten, shall be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten if the child will attain the age of five by December 31 and "is otherwise qualified." (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-150)
Hawaii	A junior kindergarten experience is provided for all children who have not reached age 5 by the kindergarten cut-off date (August 1), but will turn 5 by January 1. (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-411(c))
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	"Based upon a child's readiness to attend school, a school district may permit a child to attend school prior to the dates contained in this section." (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-20.12)
Indiana	"...[T]he governing body of the school corporation shall adopt a procedure affording a parent of an individual who does not meet the minimum age requirement set forth in this subsection the right to appeal to the superintendent of the school corporation for enrollment of the individual in kindergarten at an age earlier than the age that is set forth" in the statute. (Ind. Code § 20-8.1-3-17)
Iowa	Not specified in statute

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Kansas	"Any child who was a resident in another state and who, while residing in such other state, had entered and was in attendance in kindergarten in such state shall be eligible to attend kindergarten in this state, regardless of age." (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1107(d))
Kentucky	Not specified in statute
Louisiana	<p>A child may be admitted to kindergarten early "provided that such child has been evaluated and identified as gifted in accordance with the regulations of the state department of education for such evaluation." (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)</p> <p>During the 2005-2006 school year, the Department of Education piloted "Kindergarten Plus" in one class in each of the eight regional service districts. Kindergarten Plus provides a full day of kindergarten beginning two months prior to other kindergarten classes. Children are eligible for Kindergarten Plus if they qualify for the federal free and reduced cost lunch program. (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:24.7)</p>
Maine	A person who has enrolled in a public kindergarten or 1st grade in another state may enroll in kindergarten or 1st grade in the administrative unit where the parent or guardian become residents. (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 5201)
Maryland	<p>"The local board of education may adopt a regulation permitting a 4-year-old child, upon request by the parent or guardian, to be admitted to kindergarten if the local superintendent of schools or the superintendent's designee determines that the child demonstrates capabilities warranting early admission." (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 08.01.02)</p> <p>In 2005, Maryland adopted a rule which "requires local boards of education to establish regulations for early admission in prekindergarten, kindergarten and 1st grade. (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A. § 08.01.01)</p>
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Children may enter kindergarten early by "special permission of the board of trustees". (Mont. Code Ann. § 20-7-117)

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Nebraska	"The board may admit a child who will reach the age of 5 between October 16 and February 1 of the current school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (a) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year, (b) the family anticipates relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year, or (c) the child has demonstrated through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board that he or she is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten or the beginner grade". (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-214)
Nevada	"If a child is not 5 years of age on or before September 30 of a school year, the child must not be admitted to kindergarten." (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	A district may admit to kindergarten "any child over the age of 4 and under the age of 5 and shall admit...any child over the age of 5 and under the age of 6 years who is a resident of the district". (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:44-2)
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	A child who has been enrolled in kindergarten in another state may attend kindergarten, regardless of age, if the child is now a legal resident in North Carolina (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-364(c) and (d)). A child who turns 4 on or before April 16 may enter kindergarten during the first month of the school year, if the school principal finds, based on information submitted by the child's parent or guardian, that the child is gifted and that the child has the maturity to justify early admission.
North Dakota	A child may be admitted to kindergarten who will be 5 years old before January 1 and the child, by means of developmental and readiness screening instruments approved by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the school district, can demonstrate special talents or abilities or has been enrolled in another approved kindergarten. (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-06-01)
Ohio	Students may be admitted to kindergarten before they meet the age requirement if they reside in a district with standardized testing programs for determining early entrance. Districts shall establish a pupil personnel services committee to grant waivers for early entrance. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01)
Oklahoma	"No child shall be enrolled in kindergarten unless he or she will have reached the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 of the school year" (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 1-114).

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Oregon	A district school board may admit a child "whose needs for cognitive, social and physical development would best be met in the school program, as defined by policies of the district school board, to school even though the child has not attained the minimum age requirement." (Or. Rev. Stat. § 336.095)
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute
South Carolina	Children who have "substantially initiated a public school kindergarten program in another state" may be admitted to kindergarten in South Carolina regardless of their age. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-20)
South Dakota	Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption. (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-2)
Tennessee	Not specified in statute
Texas	A student younger than 5 may be admitted to kindergarten if the student performs satisfactorily on the assessment given to 3rd grade students and if the district has adopted a policy for admitting students younger than 5 years of age. (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 42.003)
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	In districts offering a two-tiered, junior or other developmentally appropriate pre-kindergarten program or transitional 1st grade, "children whose 5th birthday occurs between October 1 and December 31 of the school year may be enrolled in kindergarten after an appropriate readiness evaluation has demonstrated that attendance in these programs will educationally benefit such children". (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199)
Washington	Local education agencies may allow early admittance based upon the ability, need or both of an individual student. (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.225.160)
West Virginia	"A county board may provide for advanced entrance or placement under policies adopted by said board for any child who has demonstrated sufficient mental and physical competency for such entrance or placement." (W. Va.

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	Code Ann. § 18-8-1a)
Wisconsin	Each district must prescribe "procedures, conditions and standards for early admission to kindergarten." The state will not reimburse the district for serving children who have not attained the minimum age required by statute. (Wis. Stat. Ann. §§ 120.12, 121.004)
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

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